

REMARKS

Applicants are submitting herewith a further amendment to claim 1 in order to provide additional limitations which define over the art rejection. Claims 1 and 2 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Mizutani et al. (U.S. Patent 6,798,757) in view of Walsh et al. (Hybrid Networks-A Step Beyond 3G). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner relies on Mizutani et al. to show a mobile manager 34 and a resource manager 52 as part of the common core network. However, this system utilizes a homogeneous mobile network system. The Examiner admits that Mizutani et al. does not teach that the common core network supports roaming between heterogeneous radio communication networks based on a lower network layer.

The Examiner relies on the Walsh et al. reference to teach common core networks supporting roaming between heterogeneous radio communication networks based on a lower network layer. The Examiner feels that it would have been obvious to modify the system of Mizutani et al. to include the common core networks supporting roaming as taught by Walsh et al.

First, Applicants disagree with the Examiner's understanding of the Walsh et al. reference. The Examiner has referred to Fig. 5 to show a common core network supporting roaming between heterogeneous radio communication networks. Applicants submit that this figure shows no more than the network shown in Fig. 1C of the present application. As described on page 4, lines 23 and following, that network has a common core 20 and WANs 21 channel only those functions specifically related to distinct radio access technology. In general, this wireless access radio

incorporates the physical and data link layers only. Applicants submit that the device shown in Fig. 5 of Walsh et al. is similarly arranged.

Claim 1 makes it clear that common core networks support roaming between heterogeneous radio communication networks based on a link layer or a network layer. As pointed on page 4 of the specification, the device shown in Fig. 1C incorporates the physical and data link layers only. Thus, Applicants submit that the Walsh et al. reference does not teach the radio communication networks based on a link layer or a network layer.

Furthermore, Applicants have now amended claim 1 to further describe the arrangement such as shown in Fig. 2 of the present application. As is clearly seen there, the common core network is connected through a series of WANs which can be accessed by the mobile terminal simultaneously. This is described in the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 of the specification. This is also described on page 6, lines 23-25. Applicants have now added this limitation to claim 1 to further define over the prior art.

The present device operates in a different fashion from that shown in Walsh et al. by having different networks providing different services which overlap and which can be accessed simultaneously. This differs from Fig. 5 of Walsh et al. which is similar to Fig. 1C of the present application which does not allow such simultaneous accessibility and which operates at a different layer. For these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not obvious over this combination of references.

Likewise, claim 2, which depends on claim 1, is allowable based upon its dependency from allowable claim 1.

CONCLUSION

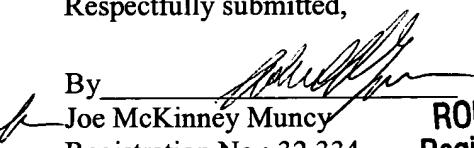
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse Reg. No. 27,295 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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